



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## First US Mint comments

3 messages

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 8, 2010 at 6:37 PM

Dear Joel and Len:

I just received word that Winterthur has discontinued its wood sampling department and has no one on its staff able to undertake such work. I tried to count the number of rings on my piece and it seems to be about 80. The bark side of the joist as well as the three split sides are covered with a black coating which was apparently from exposure to the atmosphere at the Mint.

In reading your book I have a goodwill suggestion to add a fact that is clearly set out in Stewart's book but apparently the original records have not been located. In 1795 and thereafter ground rent was paid on real estate occupied by the US Mint to The Institute for the Schooling of Blacks as well as School for the Education of negroes, etc under care of the people called Quakers. While you mention there were ground rents paid I think it will help please the public to show that blacks without cost were then be educated by the Quakers on the Mint's grounds. It is your call.

I am working on the Foreword a little.

Eric

Leonard Augsburger <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Jan 9, 2010 at 10:24 PM

To: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]> | Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Eric-

Thanks for looking into the Winterthur possibility.

Regarding the ground rent, it was ultimately extinguished c. 1890. We found this note in the Stewart papers on our last visit --

"John L. Kates paid off the ground rent which was in existence for nearly one hundred years. It was last owned by a church whose members were colored. They obtained a good price for the ground rent when sold."

I attended George Kolbe's sale of the Stack library this afternoon. You will be interested to know that the Col. Green inventory records (lot 79) hammered at \$70K, and that the photographic record (lot 80) hammered at the same price. The rumor on the floor was that both lots went to a "buyer from Europe." I am sure you could have had either lot in the 1930s for a relative pittance!

Regards,  
Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 8 Jan 2010 18:37:55 -0500  
Subject: First US Mint comments  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel and Len:

I just received word that Winterthur has discontinued its wood sampling department and has no one on its staff able to undertake such work. I tried to count the number of rings on my piece and it seems to be about 80. The bark side of the joist as well as the three split sides are covered with a black coating which was apparently from exposure to the atmosphere at the Mint.

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I am working on the Foreword a little.

Eric

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**Joelorosz** <[REDACTED]>  
To: Leonard Augsburger <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Jan 9, 2010 at 11:04 PM

Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Dear Eric:

You are quite right that we should specify the beneficiaries of the ground rent on the Mint property.

I have only one thing to add to Len's note (besides shaking my head in amazement at the amounts realized by the Col. Green material), and that is to say that we are delighted that you are working on the Foreword. We are in the process of sending the draft out to a few other readers right now, so your timing couldn't be more appropriate.

I hope 2010 is off to a roaring start for you.

Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Foreword for your book

3 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 3:24 PM

Dear Joel:

Just a note to tell you that I have almost finished the Foreword for your book in handwritten form. I will then have it typewritten promptly.

I want you and Len to vigorously edit it to your satisfaction. Throw out any word or sentence or thought. Tell me to change or add anything. Lengthen it or shorten it or rearrange any part. I enjoyed preparing it.

Eric

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 3:29 PM

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 1/25/2010 2:26:28 P.M. Central Standard Time  
Subj: Fwd: Foreword for your book

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 1/25/2010 2:24:23 P.M. Central Standard Time  
Subj: Foreword for your book  
[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 5:54 PM

Dear Eric:

Len and I are delighted that you are closing in on completion of the Foreword to our book--we are very much looking forward to reading it. We also appreciate your kindness in giving us permission to wield a red pencil vigorously, although we can hardly imagine any circumstance in which that would be necessary with your writing. In any case, we will give it a good examination when it arrives.

A quick update on our progress--we have shared the manuscript with eight readers of the caliber of Q. David Bowers, R.W. Julian, and Roger Burdette. Critiques have begun to return, with a few corrections and suggestions for improvements that we are tasking to heart. The manuscript will emerge stronger for their efforts. We have promised to place the finished manuscript in the hands of Dennis Tucker at Whitman by the latter part of March, so we are right on our timetable.

We do have one other request of you--might it be possible to receive a photograph of your section of the first Mint timber? We have photographed the other known specimens for an appendix to the book, and very much wish to include yours, as well. Is that something that Tom Serfass could do for you? If not, we would be happy to reimburse you for the cost of

having it commercially done. If taken on a digital camera, the photo needs to have a minimal resolution of 600 dots per inch in order to be reproduced in the book.

We are pleased that you have emerged with no ill effects from the dreadful weather St. Louis has been enduring of late. Again we are very grateful to you for writing the Foreword, and eager to sit down and read it!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## First Mint

2 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 7, 2010 at 3:32 PM

Dear Joel:

You may be pleased to know that I have finished the Foreword. It is partly typed and partly handwritten. My secretary will finish typing it tomorrow. It will be easier for me to FAX it to you and Len as I am not good at Email add ons. Then you two can macerate it. I learned a lot from writing it. I rewrote it so many times my wastebasket has been overflowing. Please telephone me if you wish or Email me, [REDACTED]

The picture of the block of timber was taken by Jack Hpwersi when he visited here nine days ago and he will send it to you as soon as he gets it back from the processor.

You cannot hurt my feelings by red penciling.

Eric

Leonard Augsburger <[REDACTED]>

To: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]> Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Feb 7, 2010 at 4:04 PM

Eric-

We really look forward to reading this. The fax number is [REDACTED]

There is a new development in the story - Joel made contact with a descendant of Adam Eckfeldt this past week. She indicates that she has personal papers from Eckfeldt himself. If everything works out we will get a look at them in a couple weeks. It's not clear how much numismatic content, if any, we'll find. But it should be very interesting in any case.

Regards,  
Len.

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From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 7 Feb 2010 15:32:56 -0500  
Subject: First Mint

To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

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Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Foreword

4 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Feb 10, 2010 at 12:36 PM

Dear Joel:

On last Monday I sent a draft of my Foreword to Leonard by FAX but do not know if you received it also. Do you have a different FAX or did he send a copy to you.

Eric

Joelorosz <[REDACTED]>  
To: EricNumis <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Feb 10, 2010 at 2:29 PM

Dear Eric:

Len shared a copy of your wonderful Foreword with me. You did exactly what we asked you to do, setting the stage for the creation of the Mint. In fact, it is the best short course on Colonial American numismatics we have ever seen!

Len and I made some few light edits, and we are ready to send it to you for your approval of the piece as it stands. I could either send it to you as a Word document attached to an e-mail, or fax it to you--whichever would be easier for you. If you prefer the fax, if you would share your fax number with me, I will get right to it.

Again, Eric, we thank you for delivering such a strong document to us. If there were such a thing as a Postgraduate School of Numismatics, you would surely be its Dean!

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 02/10/10 12:36:05 Eastern Standard Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel:

On last Monday I sent a draft of my Foreword to Leonard by FAX but do not know if you received it also. Do you have a different FAX or did he send a copy to you.

Eric

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Thu, Feb 11, 2010 at 10:18 AM

Dear Joel:

Thank you for the kind words about my Foreword to your book. Please Fax your suggested improvements to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I am going to clarify my comment as to Virginia 1773 coinage. May I add the word impressive to the word "outstanding" in the last sentence or should I shovel in more praise. I do not want to turn the reader off by too much goo but want to praise it in a dignified deserved scholarly manner.

.Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Fri, Feb 12, 2010 at 1:02 AM

Dear Eric:

I am in the wilds of Bonita Beach, Florida, without access to a fax machine, until Sunday night. I have asked Len to fax you the latest version, and I am sure he will do so soon.

We would be honored if you added the word "outstanding" in the last sentence--and please feel free to make any adjustments you would like to the entire document--we are proud to have it as our Foreword!

Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Slight change in Foreword

3 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 28, 2010 at 2:33 PM

I have a slight technical change which may be desirable for the Foreword. In paragraph 8 there are included the words G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT I

This may be mixed pickles as to punctuation and is clumsy to read because of the final letter I.

The legend on the coin is

G. WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT. I. with one period and three stops..

I think it would be helpful to change it to be

( G. WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT. I. )

Other capitalized legends in the Foreword do not have the same problem and should remain unchanged.

If the printed capital letter I were not the same as the printed Roman numeral one potential readability would not be a problem. If you agree to my change please do it Eric

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Sun, Feb 28, 2010 at 8:55 PM

Dear Eric:

Your proposed change makes a good deal of sense to us. Making the printed legend conform to that on the coin is eminently sensible, and we will make sure that change is made in the Foreword. The change also has the advantage of making the legend easier to read and comprehend.

On another front, Bob Julian has told us that the two of you are working on the question of whether Adam Eckfeldt was "present at the creation" of the 1792 half dimes. As much as I hope that your research will establish the likelihood of this event (which would make the McAllister Memorandum all the more compelling), I suspect that the evidence you unearth will point in the other direction. In either case, I will be eager to read your conclusions.

Thanks once more for your ongoing assistance.

Best regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 1, 2010 at 1:26 PM

Thanks for making the G. WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT. I. change in the Foreword.

As to the Eckfeldt matter which Bob Julian raised I have nothing to verify it and do not think it is important enough to pursue further. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

**Fwd: Something to add to your book?**

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Sun, Mar 7, 2010 at 3:08 PM

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 3/6/2010 11:39:22 P.M. Central Standard Time  
Subj: Re: Something to add to your book?

Dear Eric:

Len and I have put our heads together, and while we cannot say for sure that your observation is new, we can certainly affirm that it is new to us. It's fascinating that no one seems to have made such an observation before. It appears that we have all been so focused upon stars that we have forgotten to count the links of the chain. It does seem likely that die cutting was either done or too far along by the time Kentucky was admitted.

The only other star mistake in early American coinage of which we are aware is the 1828 12-star half cent. It is possible that there are others.

This goes to show that even well-studied series still have some secrets! While this is fascinating, however, it is not within the scope of our book. It sounds as if it should be a coda to your Fugio book--for the chain motif, as you note, clearly can be traced back the Fugios.

Many thanks, Eric, for sharing this fascinating information with us.

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, Mar 6, 2010 1:51 pm  
Subject: Something to add to your book?

Dear Joel and Len:

I have no idea as to whether this observation is new or not, I thought it should be submitted to you because you would know if it has been pointed out before. It might be put in your book regardless unless it is already there. The first one cent coinage struck at the First United States Mint were dated 1793. Part of the design of the first one cent pieces was a chain of 14 interlocked flat sided links. The design idea (using round links in a chain) obviously came from the chain design on the February 17, 1776 Continental Congress paper currency and the Fugio copper coinage. On June 1, 1792 Kentucky was admitted as the 15th state. This seems to show that the designing of the 14 link cent of 1793 was prepared prior to June 1, 1792 or by designers who thereafter were unaware of the Kentucky admission or too far along in die cutting because the number of links would have been 15 instead of 14. So far as I know no other link or star mistakes were made in the early years of US Mint coinage of other denominations.

What do you think or know about this matter?

I have reported this to Kenneth Bressett as his catalog does not mention the 14 link 1793 cent matter apparently because it only records the number of stars where there are varieties of position or number of stars on a US coin. It is up to him whether to accept my suggestion for the next revision.



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

## Confession

5 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 6:41 PM

Dear friends:

When I make a mistake I want to report it to those I furnished erroneous information. There are 15 links on the 1793 US chain cents not 14 as I said.. My eyes are not as sharp as they used to be. Perhaps I forgot how to count.

At least I was right when I said there were improperly 15 stars on the 1792 G. Washington. President. I. Getz pieces because there were only 14 states when they were coined.

Don't count me out yet.

Eric

Leonard Augsburger <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]> Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 8:54 PM

Eric-

More likely you have a unique chain cent in your magnificent collection, which indeed has 14 links, and has gone uncatalogued all these years!

Many thanks for correcting your earlier statement on this.

Regards,  
Len.

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From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2010 18:41:56 -0500  
Subject: Confession  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[Quoted text hidden]  
=

JoelOrosz <[REDACTED]>  
To: EricNumis <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 11:09 PM

Dear Eric:

Count you out? Hardly--we continue to count on you!

Should you no longer want that cent with the weak 15th link, I know of a very good potential home for it....

Seriously, Eric, thanks for forwarding the correction.

Warm regards,

Joel  
[Quoted text hidden]

1/25/2019

Gmail - Confession

**Leonard Augsburger <**

To: Eric Newman <

Mon, Jun 7, 2010 at 5:11 PM

Eric-

It is a lovely day here in Nantucket, where my wife & I are on vacation.

If you would like to have some "coin company" on Wednesday, we would be happy to come over.

Regards,  
Len.

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From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2010 18:41:56 -0500  
Subject: Confession  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

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[REDACTED] < [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Jun 8, 2010 at 12:51 PM

Dear Len:

We plan to come to our home in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard in late June for most of the summer. If you are still in or come back to Nantucket and can come to see us it would be a delight. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Fwd: Something to add to your book?

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Sun, Mar 7, 2010 at 3:08 PM

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 3/6/2010 11:39:22 P.M. Central Standard Time  
Subj: Re: Something to add to your book?

Dear Eric:

Len and I have put our heads together, and while we cannot say for sure that your observation is new, we can certainly affirm that it is new to us. It's fascinating that no one seems to have made such an observation before. It appears that we have all been so focused upon stars that we have forgotten to count the links of the chain. It does seem likely that die cutting was either done or too far along by the time Kentucky was admitted.

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This goes to show that even well-studied series still have some secrets! While this is fascinating, however, it is not within the scope of our book. It sounds as if it should be a coda to your Fugio book--for the chain motif, as you note, clearly can be traced back the Fugios.

Many thanks, Eric, for sharing this fascinating information with us.

Warm regards,

Joel

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, Mar 6, 2010 1:51 pm  
Subject: Something to add to your book?

Dear Joel and Len:

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What do you think or know about this matter?

I have reported this to Kenneth Bressett as his catalog does not mention the 14 link 1793 cent matter apparently because it only records the number of stars where there are varieties of position or number of stars on a US coin. It is up to him whether to accept my suggestion for the next revision.



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Inquiry

3 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Oct 4, 2010 at 3:21 PM

Dear Joel;

I have had a difficult past six months as you may know because I broke the second vertebra in my neck when I had a fall on March 31, 2010. I am substantially restored and will know more when a new Xray is taken shortly. I was still able to do research to a limited extent. You and I were both lucky to survive our ordeals. May such good fortune remain with us. I would like your comments on an important matter in an article by John Kraljevich in the August 2010 The Numismatist relating to Jacob Perkins of Newburyport MA as to whether he cut the dies for and struck the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT copper, silver and gold coinage patterns. This article asserts this I think based upon "Born in Virginia" medals".and perhaps upon the fact that the 1792 pieces have slightly different Washington heads from the two varieties of the English made 1791 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT ONE CENT coinage created by Westwood with Hancock as die cutter. I had always thought that the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces were also coined in England by Westwood and Hancock. The heads on the 1791 pieces do not seem to differ in design or portrait or diameter size from the 1792 pieces but the clothing and hairdo on Washington in the 1792 pieces is a bit more elaborate on the 1792 pieces but the die might be made from the same 1791 head punch but the die further modified after original punching,to make Washington look more important.

If you need any further data which I may know about please ask. If you want to talk about it my telephone is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If Len wants to help me join please let him know as his thoughts are more than welcome.

Stay well and thanks for listening. Eric

Joelorosz <[REDACTED]>  
To: EricNumis <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 5, 2010 at 2:57 PM

Dear Eric:

I am very glad to hear that you have substantially recovered from the broken vertebra in your neck. This must have been particularly painful because it was required to hold up the weight of eighty years of accumulated numismatic knowledge! Seriously, I agree that we both owe medical science a great debt of gratitude. As much as I love the past, I firmly believe that when people speak nostalgically of "the good old days," they are not speaking of medicine!

John Kraljevich has raised a fascinating question. I will delve into it starting this evening to see if I can shed any light upon the issue at hand. I will be in touch just as soon as I have something intelligent to say!

With warm regards,

Joel  
[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 5, 2010 at 11:24 PM

Dear Eric:

I have now had a chance to do a little poking about in my library on this fscinating topic, and have some findings (although not, alas, any firm conclusions) to share with you.

Breen's attribution of the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces to Westwood and Hancock is largely based upon his claim that they shared letter punches with the 1791-1793 Hancock cents (see p. 139 of Breen's Encyclopedia).

The first mention of a possible Perkins authorship of the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces that I was able to find was posted on the old CoinFacts.com website, possibly written by Ron Guth. The author points out that there are several differences between the punches on the Hancock 1791-1793 pieces and the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces. He also cites differences in the sizes of the heads, the arrangement of the arrows on the reverses, and details in the eagles' feathers. These differences, do, in my view, cast significant doubt upon Breen's clear-cut attribution. However, they do not prove the negative--simply because they are not exactly like 1791-1793 pieces, it does not prove that they are from different engravers--they could be simply two similar but different productions from Hancock.

John's article in *The Numismatist* was informative and enjoyable. His conclusion that Nicolas Pike must have been speaking of Jacob Perkins in Pike's letter to Washington seems plausible--I'll even say likely--but there is certainly no way of proving it from the text of the letter alone. Similarly, the fact that Jacob Perkins' descendants owned the obverse die for the WASHINGTON BORN VIRGINIA medal is suggestive of Perkins' authorship, but does not *ipso facto* prove that Perkins engraved it. Unless John has more evidence that he hasn't shared as of yet, I don't believe that his case is airtight.

It would be most instructive, Len suggested to me, if someone were to superimpose digital pictures of the Hancock 1791-1793 cents upon the 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces in order to see how letter punches and details of the bust and eagle match up. Such coin-on-coin comparisons could tip the scales one way or the other. In any case, this question is worthy of more research.

However this turns out, whether Hancock or Perkins was its engraver, your gold WASHINGTON PRESIDENT piece is still the absolute pick of the litter. You can't get much more special than being Washington's pocket piece!

Eric, I hope that this was helpful. I'd certainly be happy to speak with you at greater length, if you would like. My number is [REDACTED]

With warm regards to my fellow member of the "Walking Wounded,"

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

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**(no subject)**

2 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Oct 11, 2010 at 6:06 PM

Dear Joel:

I have learned that you were the instigator of the 100th year birthday medal for "old me." It was one of the most surprising and unusual events in my life. The fact that others wish to collect such souvenirs has astounded me. I was contacted by my numismatic friend Dick Johnson and he told me that he wanted me in profile and I thought that only a fish is best known that way. Now I have a decision to make as to which side of me is the "right" side. If I were a coin I would want a picture of my tail on the other side but I understand that I will have a choice. My profile nods with sincere thanks and my tail wags in happiness..

You have made my daycader times ten.. Eric . . .

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 12, 2010 at 3:09 PM

Dear Eric:

If any numismatist has ever merited a medallic tribute, it would have to be you. You have shared so much knowledge with so many collectors for so many years that one medal, in fact, may not be enough!

Giving credit where credit is rightly due, I must admit that the original idea came from Dick Johnson, but I volunteered to make the proposal to our fellow Rittenhouse Society members, for if Dick were to propose it, some might suspect him of attempting to drum up business for himself in his new venture. In point of fact, far from personally profiting, Dick is donating a good deal of his time and expertise as a labor of love. Numerous members of the Rittenhouse Society, out of friendship and respect for you, have contributed to make the project possible.

Eric, I hope that you take a moment to savor this outpouring of admiration for all that you are and all that have accomplished in numismatics and in life. You have been a beacon for all of us in this hobby, and it will be an honor to add your good side to my medallic cabinet!

Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

---

**Fwd: (no subject)**

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 12, 2010 at 2:09 PM

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 10/11/2010 5:06:38 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: (no subject)

Dear Joel:

I have learned that you were the instigator of the 100th year birthday medal for "old me." It was one of the most surprising and unusual events in my life. The fact that others wish to collect such souvenirs has astounded me. I was contacted by my numismatic friend Dick Johnson and he told me that he wanted me in profile and I thought that only a fish is best known that way. Now I have a decision to make as to which side of me is the "right" side. If I were a coin I would want a picture of my tail on the other side but I understand that I will have a choice. My profile nods with sincere thanks and my tail wags in happiness..

You have made my daycade times ten..                    Eric                         . . . .



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

**Re: Secret History of U.S. Mint**

1 message

**Joel Orosz** <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Mar 28, 2011 at 3:27 PM

To: Kenneth Bressett &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

Cc: leonard augsburger &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

"Tucker, Dennis"

Dear Ken:

Thanks so much for this very kind note. Coming from a scholar of your caliber and achievements, this is very high praise, indeed, and it is much appreciated. I hope that you have as much fun reading the book as Len and I had in researching and writing it. Please do let us know if you find any errors lurking in the text.

Looking forward to our paths crossing again soon--perhaps in Baltimore this weekend?

Warm regards,

Joel

On Mon, Mar 28, 2011 at 1:39 PM, Kenneth Bressett <[REDACTED]> wrote:

> Gentlemen,

>

>

>

> I have just received a copy of your new book on the history of the first  
> U.S. Mint. Wow! I am exhausted just thinking about all of the work that you  
> did in researching this project. While I have only had time to scan through  
> it at this point, I can see that I am in for some delightful reading into  
> these unchartered waters.

>

>

>

> My congratulations to you for this momentous accomplishment, and my good  
> wishes for the success of the book. I am sure it will immediately become a  
> cornerstone of information about American numismatics. It is truly a job  
> well done, and something of which you can be proud of forever.

>

>

>

> With all good wishes. ---Ken Bressett



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Book News from Baltimore

5 messages

Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Apr 3, 2011 at 4:43 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

I am happy to report that Len Augsburger and I manned a booth at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo, and managed to sell and inscribe 57 of the 60 copies of The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint that Whitman shipped to the show.

We received a number of compliments on your Foreword, including a couple of comments to the effect that "I'll buy one because Eric Newman wrote the Foreword." All of which not only made us grateful all over again that you were willing to write the Foreword for us, but it also inspired us to double-check to see if you have received your contributor's copy of the book yet. If so, we will send you an inscribed custom bookplate we have created for the volume, meant for affixing to the inside front cover. If not, we will send you a copy of the book with the bookplate already affixed.

We also fielded a question at the presentation we gave on the first Mint that we could not definitively answer. A gentleman asked if we knew what is your current top-priority subject in numismatic research.

So that we might do a better job of answering the next time we are asked, would you please share a brief description of said top numismatic research priority with us?

I hope all is going well for you as we come to the blessed end of a bitterly cold Winter.

Warm regards,

Joel

Mon, Apr 4, 2011 at 3:35 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

I am glad that you and Len were so successful in having your wonderful book appreciated. As more people read it they will stimulate others to do so. Keep writing.

I received a copy from Whitman but if you have an inscribed paste in for it I will welcome that. That is very thoughtful of you.

You asked me what research I am currently working on. I do not think I have been asked that before but I welcome it as you can probably answer some of my unsolved matters. Naturally I have several projects.

Jacob Perkins of Newburyport MA as you know was a mechanical genius I found in my collection a three denominational bank note size sample sheet demonstrating his small design multiple transfer invention. There is confusion as to what coins or medals he struck. His family acquired the obverse die of a BORN IN VA with bust of Washington and then in the 20th century a striking of quantities of obverses were made by Collis and sold. The die was then given to ANA. Fuld's book says Perkins went to England in 1818 and says Jacob Perkins obtained it from Obadiah Westwood's Mint in England and sent it back to Newburyport. It is positive that Perkins did not arrive in England until 1819. Perkins and his

descendants never returned to America. Some people think Perkins made the WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces dated 1792 1793 etc. and some do not. I think I have a solution. Any thoughts.

My other project is that I was able to acquire a 1784 Berlin handbook in German by Sprengel (?) being the first image and the first description of the Continental Currency Dollar coin. I mentioned this in CNL in 1984 but had never seen the item. It describes and has many images of the American Revolution. It has the first written description of the coin. I have a strong reason to show that the copper pieces were not intended to be a low valuation as Ford and others speculated. All ideas are welcome from you. My best Eric

,

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] < [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 4, 2011 at 3:37 PM

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 4/4/2011 2:35:29 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: Re: Book News from Baltimore

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Leonard Augsburger** < [REDACTED]  
To: Eric Newman < [REDACTED]

Wed, Apr 6, 2011 at 7:55 PM

Eric-

If these were easy problems, you would not be working on them! I don't have answers for you but if I run across anything you will be the first to know.

I had dinner last night with Ray Williams who related his delightful idea to have you sign a book for the C4 club auction at the ANA.

Regards,  
Len.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 4 Apr 2011 15:37:17 -0400  
Subject: Fwd: Book News from Baltimore  
To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Joel Orosz** < [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 7, 2011 at 12:51 AM

Dear Eric:

The inscribed self-adhesive bookplate is in the mail to your home address. It even features a photograph of Len and me, which, come to think of it, may lower the value of your book!

I was fascinated to read about both of your current research projects. While I do not have any solid facts to share with you, I naturally have my opinions.

With regard to Jacob Perkins, it has always struck me that historians have long had a bias toward attributing work to him, particularly if

said work is complex or of high-quality. Perkins was, after all, the most mechanically accomplished man of his time in the young United States, so it seems that if something of value was produced, some historian is liable to attribute it to Perkins, whether there is any evidence to support his involvement, or not. It has always seemed that the evidence to support his involvement with the WASHINGTON PRESIDENT pieces has been rather sparse. That being said, you may have unearthed new facts that would lead me to reconsider. I'll be very interested to learn what you have found--or deduced.

Turning now to the Continental Currency coins, I lean toward the notion that that brass issues were NOT low denomination pieces, although I will be the first to admit that my argument is not bulletproof. Given the fact that the brass and pewter Continental Currency coins have virtually identical devices, obverse and reverse, and given the fact that although the pewter coins are bigger and heavier, they are, in some cases, only marginally larger, it simply doesn't seem logical to me that brass and pewter were meant to represent different denominations. Think of how, 30 years ago, the similarity in diameter and weight doomed the Anthony Dollar to be confused with the Washington Quarter. And that confusion arose in a society that was familiar with the Washington Quarter, that was highly literate, and had a media blitz to prepare them for the new Anthony dollar. If the brass Continental Currency coins were meant to be of a lower denomination than the pewter Continental Currency coins, it seems only logical that they would have been made to be readily distinct by diameter, weight, and devices, so that even a population with a high percentage of illiterates, with no previous familiarity with the coins, and no mass media to prepare them for the coins, would have been able to see the distinction between them at a glance. So, my feeling has been that the Continental Currency coins were all experiments with a single high-denomination coin: a dollar.

Enough of my opinions--I'm looking forward to learning some good, old-fashioned Eric P. Newman facts!

Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

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5 messages

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1/22/2019

Gmail - Book News from Baltimore

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[Quoted text hidden]

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To: [REDACTED]

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Len.

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Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## heath Literary Awards

3 messages

Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Apr 16, 2012 at 11:50 PM

Dear Eric:

I hope this message finds you well, enjoying a beautiful spring in St. Louis, and up to your eyebrows in your latest numismatic research project.

I have a question that Google, for all of its vaunted ability, and the ANA, for all of its records, cannot definitively answer. Google says you have won 11 Heath Literary Awards. The ANA believes, but is not certain, that you have won 13. Are either one or the other correct--or is a third figure the accurate one?

If the correct total is 13, I will find myself 11 behind you, but if the correct total is 11, I will "only" be 9 behind you. Either way, it suggests to me that I had better start writing if I want to close the gap!

Seriously, I want to mention your remarkable achievement in my "Numismatic Bookie" column in coin World, and I want the number to be correct. I would very much appreciate you breaking the tie btween Google and the ANA.

Warm regards,

Joel

Tue, Apr 17, 2012 at 12:26 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

I am delighted to hear from you even it is on such a trivial subject as the number of my Heath Awards from writing for The Numismatist . I do not really remember but thought it was 13. My suggestion is that you might ask Pete Smith who has an immense and accurate file on everybody. Q. David Bowers would also know. I have a separate file on each of my writings and if there is a problem I could have my curator look there to confirm or reject any alleged item..

Your contributions are so in depth that there ought to be a quality multiplier. I apparently wrote during a period of minimal competition.

My health is pretty good having recently recovered from the removal of skin cancer from my lip. In 2011 it took me a year to recover from my fall which broke my second vertebra What I worry about is losing my marbles. I am in worship of medical science after what it also did for you. Keep writing as you seem to be doing as a columnist among other things.

My best to you.

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 17, 2012 at 9:41 PM

Dear Eric:

I very glad indeed to learn that you have recoved from skin cancer--as you have recovered from a number of physical challenges over the years. I must say that I never lose a moment's sleep worry about you losing your marbles--it seems to me that your brain has retained every boulder, steelie, and cat's eye that it ever had!

Thanks for your response on the question of the proper number of your Heath Awards. I will follow up with Pete Smith, who does indeed seem to have an accurate biographical dossier on anyone who is anybody in numismatics. Your total

bag of Heath Awards is extraordinary, whether it is 11 or 13, and I want to get it right in the column.

I appreciate very much your kind words about my writing. Like Newton, I am well aware that I am standing on the shoulders of giants such as Dave Bowers, Bob Julian, and you, so I thank you for your example of scholarship. Do watch for my next column in *Coin World*, which will contain a strong recommendation to my readers to immerse themselves in your books.

One other piece of news--Len Augsburger and I are spending this week in Philadelphia archival repositories, searching for information about the Mint's early emissions--the half disme, disme, silver center cent, Birch cent, fusible alloy, and eagle on rock. We are hoping to find enough to justify writing a book about these enigmatic issues. So far, we've found nothing earth-shaking, although we did learn today that Jefferson asked Rittenhouse to review his draft of the 1790 Report on Weight, Measures, and Coinage prior to sending it along to the House of Representatives for review.

If we decide that there is enough to justify proceeding with the book, we would very much like to pay another visit to the Newman Numismatic Museum, to examine both its information resources, and also its 1792 emissions--which include, if our sources be correct--half dismes in both copper and silver, a copper disme, and a silver center cent. It would be a great pleasure for us to see you on such a visit, as well.

I will keep you posted on our progress in Philadelphia. We cancer survivors need to stick together!

Warm regards,

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Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

**heath Literary Awards**

3 messages

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Warm regards,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

## Heath Awards

1 message

Joel Orosz &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

To: [REDACTED]

Fri, May 4, 2012 at 9:42 AM

Dear Eric:

A few weeks ago, I asked you how many Heath Awards you had won; you were unsure, and suggested that I ask Pete Smith. The redoubtable Mr. Smith has answered the question in definitive style, so I thought I would share the results with you in the attachment. It turns out that I had missed a couple of Heath Awards in my count of 13; the proper number is 15.

Be warned that my next "Numismatic Bookie" column in *Coin World* will introduce readers to the scholarly and literary contributions of Eric P. Newman to the field of numismatics. Three more columns are slated to follow on specific Newman-authored books. This series is not specifically meant as a birthday present, although it will begin its run not long before your upcoming 101st birthday on May 24. Compliments contained therein may make you occasionally blush, but remember, they are less fattening than birthday cake!

Warm regards,

Joel

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**Eric P. Newman.docx**  
13K

**Eric P. Newman**  
Heath Literary Awards

1. 1955/56 Honorable Mention "First Documentary Evidence on the American Colonial Pewter 1/24 Real"
2. 1956/57 Third (Bronze medal) "Poor Richard's Mottoes for Coins"
3. 1957/58 Third (Bronze medal) "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War"
4. 1959/60 First (Silver medal) "The Continental Dollar of 1776 Meets its Maker"
5. 1961/62 Honorary Certificate "Diagnosing the Zerbe 1804 and 1805 Dollars"
6. 1963/64 Honorary Certificate "A Dangerous Oak Tree Shilling Copy Appears"
7. 1964/65 First (Silver medal) "Nature Printing of Colonial and Continental Currency"
8. 1965/66 Second (Silver medal) "An Elephant Token Never Forgets – Forgery"

*The Numismatist*, October 1966, page 1295: "A partial list of the names of well known award winners of the Association's "Annie" with the number of times received, ... Eric P. Newman (8).

9. 1966/67 First (Silver medal) "Sources of Emblems and Mottoes"
10. 1967/68 Fourth (Bronze medal)
11. 1973/74 Certificate of Merit
12. 1974/75 Second (Bronze medal & \$100) "As Phony As a Three Dollar Bill"
13. 1978/79 Second (Bronze medal & \$100) "The Philadelphia Highway Coin Fund"  
Not listed in table of contents or index to *The Numismatist*
14. 1979/80 Second (Bronze medal & \$100-declined) "Superb Numismatic Forgeries Are Upon Us"
15. 1983/84 Third (Bronze medal) "Benjamin Franklin and the Chain Design"

*The Numismatist*, December 1984, page 2525, Carl W. Carlson: "40 Years of ANA Literary Awards" Newman, Eric P. 11 medals, 4 certificates. 15 total awards. (At the time Richard T. Hoober was the only other author in double digits with 10 awards.)



Eric Newman <

# **Continental Dollars**

3 messages

10

Thu, Nov 22, 2012 at 11:12 PM

Dear Eric:

First, a belated happy Thanksgiving to you. Having consumed enough food to cause, in the words of Ogden Nash, "a vast alimentary crisis," I am trying to work it off by catching up on my e-mail!

I read recently in *The E-Sylum* that you are working on that perpetual conundrum, the Continental dollar. I expect that you are already aware of the letter on the subject of Continental dollars written by Paul Revere on February 21, 1790 to the Reverend Richard Watson. Curiously, Revere says that he has never seen one struck in pewter.

If perchance you haven't seen this letter, which is quoted in full in Elbridge Henry Goss's 1891 *The Life of Colonel Paul Revere*. I would be happy to transcribe and send it to you.

I hope this finds you in fine fettle. I continue to do well with twice-weekly chemotherapy, and my secret ingredient, which is sheer orneriness!

Warm regards,

Joel

Fri, Nov 23, 2012 at 1:04 PM

10

Dear Joel:

My Thanksgiving stuffing, just as yours, was not the name of the food being served but what the receiver was doing to himself. I was delighted to hear from you and was about to ask you about your E-Sylum comment. I do not remember if I knew about Revere's letter or not but please send me a copy as I will be delighted to have it. It is curious that Watson is also involved in Crosby's opus and it will be slightly corrected in what my coauthor and I are now working on.

I think most of my marbles are working but my opinion bears a conflict of interest bias.

I was unaware that you are still taking pills but even if they are a waste of time you might support ObamaCare for the benefit of the rest of us. I am so glad you are fine.

I now have 9 great grandchildren and there is an event to celebrate almost every day.

I will be glad to talk to you on the telephone any mutually convenient time.

My nest, Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

Sat. Nov 24, 2012 at 6:16 PM

10

Dear Eric:

The letter is quoted in: Elbridge Henry Goss, *The Life of Colonel Paul Revere: With Portraits, Many Illustrations, Fac-Similes, Etc.* 2 volumes. Boston: Howard W. Spurr, Publisher, 1891 (I am quoting from the 1906 Fifth Edition)

The letter is found in volume 2, pages 534 and 537 (a "View of Boston, 1788" occupies page 535, and p. 536 is blank). The letter begins on p. 534, and reads as follows:

"Boston New England Feby 21, 1790

Reverend Sir:

"In perusing your invaluable Chemical Essays Vol 4 page 136 you make mention of pewter money coined by the American Congress, and give a description of it. The very great pleasure which I have received from the perusal of those Volumes, and the exceeding good character I have heard of you, from some of your Countrymen, as a [text following is on page 537] *Man*, and for fear some person of more consequence, has not endeavored to set you right in that piece of History; I have inclosed you two pieces of money, one of them was printed under the direction of the American Congress, the other I am not so fully assured [sic] off; [sic] as they both answer to your description, except the mettal [sic] I have sent them, supposing, if you were not possessed of them before, they might be acceptable to you as curiosities. As for pewter money, struck in America, I never saw any. I have made careful inquiry, and have all the reason in the world to believe, that you were imposed upon by those who informed you.

I am, Sir, with respect & esteem  
Your most humble servant

Paul Revere

The Reverend R. Watson  
Bishop of Landaff [sic; Llandaff is correct]

Eric, I am puzzled by much of the content of this letter.

1. Neither Revere nor those he consulted were aware of any American pewter coinage. Could it be true that no pewter coins of any description circulated in Boston and its environs before the date of this letter?
2. If pewter coins did not circulate in Boston, what was the composition of the two coins that Revere sent to Rev. Watson? Were they the brass and silver varieties of the Continental Dollar? If Revere had never seen the more common pewter variety, how likely is it that he would encounter the much rarer brass and silver varieties? Alternatively, might one have been a Continental Dollar, and the other a coin with a similar design type, such as a Fugio copper?
3. It's curious that Revere used the word "printed" rather than "struck." This makes it sound as if one the "pieces of money" Revere sent Watson was a paper note rather than a coin, but Revere makes it clear later in the same sentence that both pieces are made of "mettal"--so they were coins. Still, why would an experienced silversmith like Paul Revere, a man who had been involved in striking medals and possibly coins as well, use the word "printed" instead of "struck" when referring to a coin?
4. Why was Revere so sure that one of the coins he supplied to Rev. Watson had Congressional authorization, but not confident about the other one? What was his proof for the one, and the what were the grounds of his doubt regarding the other?

Unfortunately, Mr. Goss does not cite a source for the Revere's letter to Watson. I hope that this perplexing letter is of some value in your research--or at least that it will enlighten more than it muddies!

With warm regards,

Joel  
[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Re: Pewter Continental Currency Dollars

5 messages

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Bcc: [REDACTED]

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 1:53 PM

Dear Joel: Thank you very much for your 11/27/12 message, It clarifies much of the matter. Whoever wrote the letter still leaves us with a number of inquiries. What presently bothers me most is the date of writing and the place of the writing the Revere letter and whether Revere actually wrote it. Where was Revere at the alleged date, in America or England? Apparently Watson and Revere had no prior contact. The date of the letter does not seem to fit in with Crosby's published text on the Watson subject matter. Do original copies of Revere's letters still exist somewhere? Crosby and Revere were both from the Boston area. Did Revere ever go to England?

From the conundrum department. Eric

In a message dated 11/27/2012 8:21:50 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Dear Eric:

I always marvel at your ability to examine a seemingly impenetrable text and succeed, through logic and knowledge of history, in wresting the true meaning from the page.

If the two samples sent were paper money, then it makes perfect sense that Revere would say they were "printed." And it further makes sense that Revere would say, in effect: they are the same [designs] that you discuss, only they are not executed in metal. It certainly makes sense that, due to the practically non-existent circulation of the Continental Dollar, Revere had never seen an example in pewter, and probably never had seen one of variety.

I am still struggling, however, with the word "Man". I understand your point that "Man" was probably included at the top of page 537 as a reminder to the reader of the last word on page 536, which was a common 18th century printing convention (and we think we have short-term memory problems today)! My quibble with this theory is that the word "Man" fits within the context of the sentence. If we remove "man" from the sentence, it becomes clear that there is a missing word. The last two words on page 536 refer to Rev. Watson "as a" "Man" would fit; but if we remove "man," then the question becomes "as a" what? A scholar? A clergymen?

My thinking is that you are right that "man" is a memory jog for the reader--but that the printer left out a word from the original letter. This would hardly be unprecedented in the history of typesetting. However, even if there is a missing word, it probably doesn't mean much in context, since it referred to Rev. Watson personally, and not to matters numismatic. Perhaps it tells you something about me that I would devote so much cogitation to a matter of so little consequence!

I'd love to take a look at your research when it is in shape to be shown to outside readers. I always regard your writings as a sort of post-graduate seminar in numismatic research done right!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis <[REDACTED]>

To: joelorosz <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tue, Nov 27, 2012 1:28 pm  
Subject: Re: Continental Dollars

Dear Joel:

Thank you very much for the detail of the letter from Revere to Watson dated Feb.21, 1790. It is obviously confusing. I have thought about your speculation as to its meaning and want to suggest that Revere, his scribe, or someone on his behalf were very confused as to the meaning of what was intended to be written and misused words as well as spelling. The word "Man" was apparently included by the printer as a shortening of the word "Countrymen" to indicate what was the last word printed on the prior page (the word "Countrymen") in order to help the reader who was turning the page as was the then custom..

The two items referred to as being enclosed in the letter were in my opinion probably both paper money, one being a Feb, 17, 1776 fractional and the other (having a different design and being from some other Continental or State issue). The word "mettal" I think intends to include both paper enclosures as exceptions. I do not think a 1787 Fugio copper piece was involved.

It is quite possible that a pewter Continental coin had not come to the attention of Revere as yet because he was not in the Philadelphia or New York area and Continental coinage was not in circulation anywhere and never was.. Watson's first comment about the pewter coinage was first published in 1791, so Crosby's statement needs a slight modification.

Your further thoughts are most welcome. Eric

In a message dated 11/24/2012 6:16:43 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Dear Eric:

The letter is quoted in: Elbridge Henry Goss, *The Life of Colonel Paul Revere: With Portraits, Many Illustrations, Fac Similes, Etc.* 2 volumes. Boston: Howard W. Spurr, Publisher, 1891 (I am quoting from the 1906 Fifth Edition)

The letter is found in volume 2, pages 534 and 537 (a "View of Boston, 1788" occupies page 535, and p. 536 is blank). The letter begins on p. 534, and reads as follows:

"Boston New England Feby 21, 1790

Reverend Sir:

"In perusing your invaluable Chemical Essays Vol 4 page 136 you make mention of pewter money coined by the American Congress, and give a description of it. The very great pleasure which I have received from the perusal of those Volumes, and the exceeding good character I have heard of you, from some of your Countrymen, as a [text following is on page 537] *Man*, and for fear some person of more consequence, has not endeavored to set you right in that piece of History; I have inclosed you two pieces of money, one of them was printed under the direction of the American Congress, the other I am not so fully assured [sic] off; [sic] as they both answer to your description, except the mettal [sic] I have sent them, supposing, if you were not possessed of them before, they might be acceptable to you as curiosities. As for pewter money, struck in America, I never saw any. I have made careful inquiry, and have all the reason in the world to believe, that you were imposed upon by those who informed you.

I am, Sir, with respect & esteem  
Your most humble servant

Paul Revere

The Reverend R. Watson  
Bishop of Landaff [sic; Llandaff is correct]

Eric, I am puzzled by much of the content of this letter.

1. Neither Revere nor those he consulted were aware of any American pewter coinage. Could it be true that no pewter coins of any description circulated in Boston and its environs before the date of this letter?
  2. If pewter coins did not circulate in Boston, what was the composition of the two coins that Revere sent to Rev. Watson? Were they the brass and silver varieties of the Continental Dollar? If Revere had never seen the more common pewter variety, how likely is it that he would encounter the much rarer brass and silver varieties? Alternatively, might one have been a Continental Dollar, and the other a coin with a similar design type, such as a Fugio copper?
  3. It's curious that Revere used the word "printed" rather than "struck." This makes it sound as if one the "pieces of money" Revere sent Watson was a paper note rather than a coin, but Revere makes it clear later in the same sentence that both pieces are made of "mettal"--so they were coins. Still, why would an experienced silversmith like Paul Revere, a man who had been involved in striking medals and possibly coins as well, use the word "printed" instead of "struck" when referring to a coin?
  4. Why was Revere so sure that one of the coins he supplied to Rev. Watson had Congressional authorization, but not confident about the other one? What was his proof for the one, and the what were the grounds of his doubt regarding the other?

Unfortunately, Mr. Goss does not cite a source for the Revere's letter to Watson. I hope that this perplexing letter is of some value in your research--or at least that it will enlighten more than it muddies!

With warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis <  
To: joelorosz <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Fri, Nov 23, 2012 2:04 pm  
Subject: Re: Continental Dollars

Dear Joel:

My Thanksgiving stuffing, just as yours, was not the name of the food being served but what the receiver was doing to himself.

I was delighted to hear from you and was about to ask you about your E-Sylum comment. I do not remember if I knew about Revere's letter or not but please send me a copy as I will be delighted to have it. It is curious that Watson is also involved in Crosby's opus and it will be slightly corrected in what my coauthor and I are now working on.

I think most of my marbles are working but my opinion bears a conflict of interest bias.

I was unaware that you are still taking pills but even if they are a waste of time you might support ObamaCare for the benefit of the rest of us. I am so glad you are fine. I now have 9 great grandchildren and there is an event to celebrate almost every day.

I will be glad to talk to you on the telephone any mutually convenient time.

My nest. Eric

In a message dated 11/22/2012 11:12:01 P.M. Central Standard Time,

writes:

Dear Eric:

First, a belated happy Thanksgiving to you. Having consumed enough food to cause, in the words of Ogden Nash, "a vast alimentary crisis," I am trying to work it off by catching up on my e-mail!

I read recently in *The E-Sylum* that you are working on that perpetual conundrum, the Continental dollar. I expect that you are already aware of the letter on the subject of Continental dollars written by Paul Revere on February 21, 1790 to the Reverend Richard Watson. Curiously, Revere says that he has never seen one struck in pewter.

If perchance you haven't seen this letter, which is quoted in full in Elbridge Henry Goss's 1891 *The Life of Colonel Paul Revere*, I would be happy to transcribe and send it to you.

I hope this finds you in fine fettle. I continue to do well with twice-weekly chemotherapy, and my secret ingredient, which is sheer orneriness!

Warm regards,

Joel

---

Maureen Levine <

To: ' <

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 1:59 PM

Hi Eric,

Did you receive my emails yesterday? The draft of the letter is in Revere's Letterbook. I sent a copy of it, as well as Anne Bentley's transcription.

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

---

To: <

Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 8:42 AM

Dear Eric:

As is customary, you are asking all of the right questions.

Unfortunately, Mr. Goss did not provide any sort of citation for the Feb 21, 1790 letter from Revere to Watson. Goss often thanks the owner of a letter from which he quotes throughout his book, but no owner is mentioned here.

This means, of course, that we have no way of verifying that Revere wrote it, and even if he did, we have no way of verifying if the problematical date of Feb 21, 1790 is accurate.

I don't believe that Revere ever traveled to Europe. I am leaving shortly to spend a long weekend in Chicago with some friends, but I will go through the Revere biographical sources when I return, and see if I can find any evidence of a trip, especially early in 1790. I'll also check to see if there is a collection of Revere's correspondence in a repository that could be consulted.

The conundrum department is a very busy one!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis <

To: joelrosz <

[Quoted text hidden]

---

[REDACTED] < [REDACTED]

Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 11:26 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

I have been informed that the Revere letterbook is at the Mass Historical Soc. and I was sent an image of the Feb. 17,1790 handwritten Watson document from the letterbook. It solves most of the problems. You will see that Revere had a lot of trouble writing it. When you return from your long weekend I will help you find that excellent image unless you have located it already. My best Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

---

[REDACTED] < [REDACTED]

Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 3:15 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

I have returned from my Chicago weekend, and I am not at all surprised that you have beaten me to the punch in locating the Revere Letterbook at the Massachusetts Historical Society. I would appreciate it if you would send me instructions on how to locate the image so that I can examine the original.

I have done some research on whether Revere ever left the country. It is, of course, impossible to prove a negative, but insofar as I am able to determine, Revere does not seem ever to have left American shores. In fact, he seems rarely to have left the environs of Massachusetts. The books I consulted were: E. H. Goss, *The Life of Colonel Paul Revere*, 2 volumes, 1891; David Hackett Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride*, 1994; and Robert Martello, *Midnight Ride, Industrial Dawn: Paul Revere and the Growth of American Enterprise*, 2010.

Martello goes into great length about Revere's successful experimentation in rolling copper to line the hulls of American warships in the early 19th century. The U.S. Mint claims, on its website, that the Mint once bought rolled copper from Revere, but I have not been able to find confirmation of that claim in Martello's, or indeed, any of these books. I'll do a little more poking about on that subject, as well.

The Conundrum Department is still open for business.

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis <

To: joelorosz <

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

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## Fwd: Congratulations!

1 message

Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

To: Print <[REDACTED]>

Mon, May 19, 2014 at 7:47 AM

<br><br><div>----- Original message -----</div><div>From: Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]> </div><div>Date: 05/19/2014 7:40 AM (GMT-06:00) </div><div>To: [REDACTED] </div><div>Subject: Congratulations! </div><div><br></div>

Dear Eric:

Congratulations on the very positive feature story about your life in collecting appearing in this morning's *New York Times*! It does convey a mistaken emphasis or two, but certainly it is much better than the typical story in the non-numismatic press. All in all, it's not a bad way to start the run-up to the celebration of your 103rd birthday!

With warm regards,

Joel

Dear Eric:

Congratulations on the very positive feature story about your life in collecting appearing in this morning's New York Times! It does convey a mistaken emphasis or two, but certainly it is much better than the typical story in the non-numismatic press. All in all, it's not a bad way to start the run-up to the celebration of your 103rd birthday!

With warm regards,

Joel



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

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## Re: A favor, please!

3 messages

Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jul 24, 2014 at 9:12 AM

To: Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Hi Joel,

There are a lot of complexities, so I did have quite a few changes. I know that you wanted to use "CC Dollar" for brevity, but Eric wouldn't like that terminology.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

--Maureen

On Jul 22, 2014, at 9:46 PM, Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

> Dear Maureen:

>

> I need to add a description of the article that you and Eric co-published in this month's issue of The Numismatist to both Chapter 9 Peerless Publications, and to the complete Annotated Bibliography.

>

> I have drafted the entry for the Annotated Bibliography, and attached it below. Because this is a very complex article, I would appreciate it very much if you would review it for accuracy before I insert it into the Annotated Bibliography, and rewrite it slightly to insert into Chapter 9.

>

> summarizing it made me appreciate all over again just what an important article this is. Congratulations once more to you and Eric for this significant contribution to our knowledge of the the 1776 Continental Currency Coin.

>

> Best,

>

> Joel

>

>

> <EPN Annotated Bibliography Addition.docx>

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**ML EPN Annotated Bibliography Addition.docx**  
20K

Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jul 24, 2014 at 7:38 PM

To: Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Dear Maureen:

Many thanks for these thoughtful and precise edits. I have incorporated all of them into the entry. I appreciate your correction of the subtle miscues I made in summarizing this most complex article.

Best,

Joel

[Quoted text hidden]

---

Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jul 24, 2014 at 9:54 PM

To: Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Hi Joel,  
Thank you for all your help.  
--Maureen

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 24, 2014, at 6:38 PM, Joel Orosz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Maureen:

Many thanks for these thoughtful and precise edits. I have incorporated all of them into the entry. I appreciate your correction of the subtle miscues I made in summarizing this most complex article.

Best,

Joel

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

--Maureen

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>

> Best,

>

> Joel

>

>

> <EPN Annotated Bibliography Addition.docx>



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Washington President, 13 Star Patterns and The Historical Magazine

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 5:48 PM

Dear Eric:

As promised during EPNNES Numismatic Digitization meeting of a week ago today, I am sharing a report on the mention of Washington President 13 Star Patterns found in *The Historical Magazine*. I have a complete run of *The Historical Magazine* in my library, and I carefully checked the index I have made of articles of numismatic interest found within. Unfortunately, there is only one article that specifically mentions the 1792 Washington President 13 Star Patterns. Other articles discuss Washington pieces without mentioning the 1792 Washington President 13 Star Patterns and the most significant of these "almost relevant" articles contains significant errors and unproven assertions. A brief description of each article follows:

**"J. C." (Jeremiah Colburn, of Boston). "English Coins Struck for the American Colonies. Coins Issued by the Several States and Also by the Federal Government Previous to the Establishment of the Mint in 1792." *The Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 10, October 1857, pp. 297-300.**

This article mentions the Walker/Westwood/Hancock Washington cents of 1791, and the Getz Washington "half dollar" of 1792, but does not mention the Washington President 13 Star Patterns of 1792.

**"Retsilla" (Pen Name of John McAllister, Jr. of Philadelphia). "The Washington Cents." *The Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 10, October 1857, pp. 302-305.**

McAllister provides a brief introduction to a reprint of a letter written by Jonas McClintock, the Melter and Refiner of the Philadelphia Mint, and published in the *Pittsburgh Morning Chronicle* of December 5, 1843. McAllister says that McClintock's account can be trusted because McClintock got it from Adam Eckfeldt, long-time Chief Coiner of the Philadelphia Mint. This as we shall see, proves to be untrue. McClintock discusses the 1791 Walker/Westwood/Hancock cents, both large and small eagle; the 1792 Getz cents; the Washington Born Virginia copper and the Liberty and Security tokens. The 1792 Washington President 13 Star Patterns are not mentioned. This article contains errors regarding the origin of these coins. It states that all of the coinage dated 1791 was struck in the cellar of John Harper's saw shop at North 6th and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia (we know it to have been struck in Birmingham, England by Westwood). It states that all of the coinage dated 1792 was struck in an old coach shop on South Sixth Street opposite Carpenter Street (there is no definite proof that the Getz coinage or the Washington President 13 Star Patterns were struck here, but it is possible).

**"J.C." (Jeremiah Colburn). "Coins." *The Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 10, October, 1859, p. 310.**

Colburn warns collectors that "Washington Cents of 1792" have been copied. This could refer, of course, to Washington President 13 Star Patterns, but more likely refers to the 1792 Getz cents.

**"A.S. (Dr. Augustine Shurtleff, of Brookline, Massachusetts). "The Washington Coins." *The Historical Magazine*, Vol. 4, No. 3, March 1860, pp. 83-86.**

Originally published in a February 1859 Boston newspaper, and republished after this on the inside covers of an October 17-18, 1860 Bangs, Merwin & Co. catalog, Shurtleff's list was compiled from specimens in his own collection, plus those of fellow Bostonians Jeremiah Colburn and Rev. J. M. Finotti. Number 13 on Shurtleff's list is described as follows; 1792. Smaller in size [than the Getz "half dollar," which was #12 on Shurtleff's list], bust in same dress, somewhat heavier in the features. Legend---"Washington, President," date below. Reverse, a spread eagle like No. 9 [Walker/Westwood/Hancock 1791 large eagle cent], but in place of one cent over the head, are 12 stars in a line and one on the bird's crest."

The foregoing comprises all of the relevant (and almost relevant) articles in *The Historical Magazine*. If it would be helpful to you, I would be happy to scan any or all of these articles and send them to you.

The Shurtleff article is the second mention of the 1792 Washington President 13 Star Patterns I can find in the literature. The first mention came in John H. Hickox's *An Historical Account of American Coinage*, Albany: Joel Munsell, 1858, p. 84:

A copper piece, larger than a cent. Obverse, a bust of Washington in military costume; legend WASHINGTON PRESIDENT, 1792: Reverse, a spread eagle, large, holding in its right talon a bundle of thirteen arrows, and in its left an olive branch, a scroll from its beak inscribed Unum E Pluribus. At the top of the piece a row of thirteen stars.

I am sorry that I was unable to find anything more substantial than this meager offering. If there is anything more I can do to be helpful to your research, please let me know.

Warm regards,

Joel



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

---

## One last fact to check!

1 message

---

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Mon, Aug 25, 2014 at 10:35 PM

Dear Eric:

My co-authors and I are putting the final touches on the manuscript for your biography, and we have come down to one last fact to check. It springs from the chapter I wrote about the research, writing, and publication of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*.

A question has been raised as to whether you have, in the 52 years since the book was published, changed your opinion in any way about the legitimacy of Class I 1804 dollars. Put another way, in 1962 you clearly stated that you believed Class I 1804 dollars to be illegally made novodels that were not legitimate United States Coins. Has any data gathered since then caused you to revise your position on the matter, or do you feel the same way now as you did then?

If a telephone conversation would be more efficient than e-mail, send me your phone number, and I will give you a call. Or if you would prefer to call me, my number is [REDACTED]

Thanks in advance for settling this final question for us!

Warm regards,

Joel



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Interim Report on Washington President Research in The Historical Magazine

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Thu, Sep 4, 2014 at 2:58 PM

Dear Eric:

It has been a couple of weeks since I promised you that I would search three sources for more information on your Washington President 13 Star Reverse gold coin:

1. Augustine Shurtleff
2. John Hickox
3. Second Series of *The Historical Magazine*

I have completed a combination of library and Internet searches regarding Messrs. Shurtleff and Hickox, and unfortunately was not able to find anything of value regarding the Washington President 13 star reverse in gold with either of them. I did find some more information about the sad end of Mr. Hickox's career, when he was caught filching money from the U.S. Mail while working in the Post Office, but nothing more on our topic.

With regard to *The Historical Magazine*, I have some information to share. It turns out that there are not two series of this magazine, but rather three:

First Series: 10 volumes, 1857-1866.

Second Series: 9 volumes, 1867-1871.

Third Series: 3 volumes, 1872-1874.

I acquired a run of all three series back in the late 1990s.. I hand-indexed all numismatic items published within the first series shortly after acquiring the complete run. These items were numerous in the three volumes from the 1850s, and continued to be numerous in the the first two volumes of the 1860s, but dropped off precipitously within the 1862-1866 volumes. Given this decline in numismatic topics, and given that the *American Journal of Numismatics* was founded right after the Civil War, I thought it would be an exercise in diminishing returns to index the Second and Third Series, so they have sat on my shelves largely unopened for 15 years.

So, I am now going through, page-by-page, each of the 12 volumes comprising the 2nd and 3rd series (each at least 400 pages long), and indexing numismatic topics. So far (I have gotten through the first two volumes of the Second Series), I have found little numismatic material at all, and nothing on the Washington President 13 stars in any metal. I will continue to wade through these volumes, however, to see if there is anything of interest. Unfortunately, the 3rd Series terminates just before the 1875 Cogan sale of Cohen collection, which might have provided an occasion for a story.

Upcoming travel will prevent me from getting this indexing job done quickly, but I want you to know that I am on the case, and that I will share with you anything I find that sounds particularly interesting, numismatically.

With warm regards,

Joel